India's permanent membership in security council

1265. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether our Government committed any mistake in the candidature lor permanent membership of the U.N. Security Council; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government did not commit any mistake in declaring its candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Discussions on Security Council restructuring had begun in 1992 with the adoption of the resolution 'Question of Equitable Representation on and increase in the Membership of the Security .Council and other Matters Related to the Security Council'. Pursuant to this resolution, an Open-Ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly was set up in 1993. Government believes that the Security Council should be expanded in both permanent and non-permanent members' category, that representation of developing countries in the Security Council should be enhanced, and taking into account any objectve criteria India would qualify as permanent member. Discussions in the Working Group are continuing.

Policy for purchase of weapons

1266. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army Chief has called for making the Defence budget "responsive" to defence requirements and streamlining the process of allocation for the sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the setps proposed to establish a link between the national security strategy to be pursued and the weapons to be purchased before taking a decision to purchase a weapon system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Chief of the Army Staff, while speaking, extempore, on the occasion of release of a book written by ex-Financial Adviser (Defence Services), mentioned words to the effect that 'the defence budget should be managed in a manner responsive to defence requirement.' There is a well defined system of estimating the defence requirements on the basis of the threat perceptions and contractual, obligatory, regular and recurrent commitments, in consultation with the Services Headquarters and Integrated Finance Division. Ministry of Finance, keeping in view the estimates of requirement and the security concerns projected by the Ministry of Defence, available resources and demands from other sectors, decide on the defence allocation.

(c) As a matter of policy, the requirements of defence are worked out in consonance with national strategic and security policy. While finalising the Acquisition Plan, interalia, the global and regional security environment as well as the technological environment assessment are also kept in view. The prioritised programmes of modernisation - purchase of weapon systems, for all the three Services, are carried out in a manner which is in line with our national policy and is designed to optimise the exploitation of the available resources.